MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

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FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 1, 2017/2018

DEN5018 – ENGLISH

(All Groups)

24 OCTOBER 2017
2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **NINE** pages only.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in **Sections A and B**.
3. Please write all your answers in the Answer Booklet provided.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [30 MARKS]

Instructions: *Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.*

Can Humans Survive on Air Alone?

1 If you had the perfect cure for world hunger, would you not want to share it? A group called Breatharians claims to have the answer to this worldwide **dilemma** and to other food-related diseases: stop eating or live off *prana*, which is a Sanskrit word that translates to "life air" or "life force". The concept of *prana* appears in many other traditions, including China, Japan and Polynesia.

2 This group believes that a person can give up food and water altogether and live purely on light or air. A renowned Breatharian, Jasmuheen, who is known by most Breatharians in the world, is credited with starting today's Breatharian movement. Her *Prana* Programme advises followers to convert to Breatharianism gradually. They can become a vegetarian, become a vegan, move to fruits and then liquids, and finally live off *prana*. The culmination of the whole journey is that one replaces physical food with air and light.

3 Some may ask this question, "What is the distinction between fasting and Breatharianism?" In most major religions, fasting is a spiritually important aspect. Mahatma Gandhi, the famed spiritual leader and humanitarian, referred to a complete fast as the truest prayer. While fasting has an end point, Breatharianism is a total fast for life, however long you live.

4 According to Jasmuheen, she has lived for years without nourishment. Unfortunately, Breatharianism has terminated the lives of some of its followers. Verity Linn, a 49-year-old woman, was found dead in a remote part of Scotland after attempting the Breatharian conversion. Timo Degen, a kindergarten teacher, tried the Breatharian plan and slipped into a coma. Degen recovered after four weeks, only to die a short while after that.

5 In another incident, Lani Morris kept a diary throughout her time as a Breatharian. Morris died from various infirmities, with symptoms of pneumonia, severe dehydration, kidney failure and severe stroke. She was in the care of two Breatharians, Jim and Eugenia Pesnak. Morris was isolated and had the understanding that she would be given orange juice after one week and nothing at all for two weeks after that. She indicated in her diary that she dreamed of food. She was unable to get out of bed, and she had since become crippled.

6 Learning these tragic outcomes, one might ask, "What happens to a person who stops eating completely?" Without food, the body must find another way to maintain glucose levels. At first, it breaks down glycogen. Then, it turns to proteins and fats. The liver turns fatty acids in fats into by-products called ketones until there are too many of them to process. Then, the body goes into a perilous chemical imbalance called ketosis which can lead to dehydration and threaten life.

7 It is dehydration that has a fatal effect instantaneously, taking away one's life in a matter of days, very quickly after a person stops eating completely. This is because a person can only survive without water for days. First, the body loses water through urine and sweat. A person then develops a buildup of toxins in the blood. Eventually, the organs begin to fail. Dehydration leads to seizures, permanent brain damage or even death. Jasmuheen says, "If a person does not

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listen to his or her inner voice, there can be many problems with the process, from extreme weight loss to even death. However, science, which has testified through numerous experiments, says that the human body cannot survive without food and water, regardless of what the inner voice says.

8 Jasmuheen also volunteered to appear on Australia's "60 Minutes" to prove her claims of living on light. After 48 hours, her blood pressure increased, and she exhibited signs of dehydration. She attributed these symptoms to polluted air. The programme organiser then moved her to a location further from the city, but as her speech slowed and weight loss continued, the doctor supervising her advised the programme organiser to quit the experiment before she lost more kidney function. Despite the doctor's observation, Jasmuheen maintains that "60 Minutes" stopped the test because they feared that it would be successful.

Adapted from Lambert, K. (n.d.). *Can humans survive on air alone?* Retrieved from http://science.howstuffworks.com/innovation/edible-innovations/breatharian.htm

Question 1: Contextual Clues (10 marks)

Instructions: *Provide a word from the reading passage for each definition below.*

Example:	**a difficult situation**	**(paragraph 1)**	**word: dilemma**
i.	famous for a special achievement	(paragraph 2)	
ii.	the final result of a process	(paragraph 2)	
iii.	clear difference between two things	(paragraph 3)	
iv.	brought to an end	(paragraph 4)	
v.	illnesses for long periods	(paragraph 5)	
vi.	unable to use legs or arms in a normal way	(paragraph 5)	
vii.	extremely dangerous	(paragraph 6)	
viii.	happening immediately	(paragraph 7)	
ix.	proved that something exists or is true	(paragraph 7)	
x.	believed that a situation is caused by a particular event or action	(paragraph 8)	

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Question 2: Reading Comprehension (20 marks)

Instructions: *Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.*

The Beautiful Languages of the People who Talk Like Birds

1 If you are ever lucky enough to visit the foothills of the Himalayas, you may hear an amazing whistle. It sounds like musicians playing a strange instrument. Sometimes, it rings through the forest in duet, like an enchanting melody. In reality, it is the sound of lovers talking in a whistled language. Joining just a handful of other communities, the Hmong people can speak in whistles. Their language is very lovely expressed during a romantic relationship, when boys wander through the nearby villages at nightfall, whistling their favourite poems between the houses. If a girl responds, they then start a flirty dialogue.

2 It is not just the enticing melodies that make it the perfect language of love. Compared with spoken conversations, it is hard to know who the speakers are and what their gender is from their whistles. The couple may even create their own personal code, adding syllables to confuse listeners. "It gives them some secrecies," says Julien Meyer, who is a researcher from the University of Grenoble, France, and who visited the region in the early 2000s. In most languages, whistles are used more for calling attention. They seem too simple to carry much meaning, but Meyer has now identified more than 70 groups of people who can use whistles to express themselves.

3 Meyer's interest in whistled languages began with a 40-year-old article about Silbo Gomero, a form of whistled Spanish on one of the Canary Islands. In the mountains and ravines of La Gomera, in the Canary Islands, this language of whistles has been used for centuries to transmit long distance messages with amazing accuracy. The human voice can only travel at a short distance, but a whistle can travel for miles; thus, the messages in whistles can travel so reliably. Furthermore, whistling is not a simple signalling system like smoke signals which have a limited set of meanings. Silbo Gomero is a full and complete language. It involves changing the sounds of a full language of Spanish into whistles.

4 There are no certainties about its origins. It is known that when the first European settlers from North Africa arrived at La Gomera in the 15th Century, the inhabitants of this North African origin communicated with whistles. With the arrival of the Spanish, the locals adapted the whistling language to Spanish. Hence, the most likely theory is that the whistling language came with the settlers from Africa, where there are records of other whistled languages.

5 In 2009, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) added Silbo Gomero to its list of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity to raise awareness about this cultural heritage and motivate local communities to protect it. Now, school children in La Gomera also learn the unique features of whistling in school. This ancient whistling language that once seemed to be dying out is now undergoing a revival. *This* is important because when modernisation rapidly encroaches on those remote communities, we will need to move quickly to capture these languages, before those echoes from the past are lost forever.

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6 The ancient history books offered a few pointers on the use of whistles in communication. In the 5th Century B.C., for instance, the Greek historian, Herodotus, described a group of cave-dwelling Ethiopians. "Their speech is like no other in the world; it is like the squeaking of bats," he wrote. It is difficult to know which communities in Ethiopia he was describing. According to Meyer, what is certain is that several whistled languages can still be heard in Ethiopia's Omo Valley.

7 Given that whistles can travel much farther than normal speech, as far as eight kilometres in open conditions, they are most commonly found in mountains as they help hunters pass messages down the valley. The sounds can also penetrate dense forests such as the Amazon, where hunters whistle to locate each other through the dense foliage. Unlike regular speech, they tend not to scare the potential prey. For instance, whistles are very useful to the Inuit communities of the Bering Strait in sending commands to each other while not scaring away whales in the sea.

8 Unsurprisingly, these languages can also be a weapon of war. Meyer says that the indigenous Berber populations in the Atlas Mountains used whistles to pass messages during their resistance against the French. The Australian army, meanwhile, recruited Wam speakers from Papua New Guinea to whistle messages across the radio when battling against Japanese fighters. Let us not forget that whistled speech was also used in ancient Chinese texts which recorded people whistling Taoist verses, a practice for meditative purpose. Meyer has found that Southern China is still a hot spot for many diverse whistling communities among its ethnic minorities, including the Hmong and the Akha.

9 Clearly, whistled languages are not just legend, but a vital method of communication for millions of people living today. However, it may seem impossible for some people to imagine the ways that the rising and falling tones could convey meaning. Outsiders often find it almost impossible to believe that these languages carry messages. A study by Onur Gunturkun at Ruhr University Bochum in Germany shows that outsiders can begin to adapt to the "bird language" with regular exposure, provided they know the spoken language first. Gunturkun's study would seem to support Meyer's most recent study, which found that people with no prior knowledge of the whistled languages can soon work out which whistles correspond with which vowels. They do not need to have been born in a community speaking a whistled language to learn to speak like a bird.

Adapted from Robson, D. (May 2017). *The beautiful languages of the people who talk like birds.* Retrieved from http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20170525-the-people-who-speak-in-whistles

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Question 2A: True or False (5 marks)

Instructions: *For each statement, write (T) if the statement is true and (F) if the statement is false.*

a. The Hmong's whistled language becomes very beautifully expressed when it is used by a couple in love.

b. In most languages, speakers use whistles more for expressing meaning than calling attention.

c. The first whistled language Meyer felt interested in was a Spanish whistled language.

d. The communities which used whistled languages in Ethiopia were clearly stated in ancient history by the Greek historian, Herodotus.

e. Gunturkun's study shows that outsiders' knowledge of a community's spoken language is necessary before they can command the whistled language.

Question 2B: Comprehension Questions (15 marks)

Instructions: *Answer the following questions.*

a. Describe the sound one could hear at the foothills of Himalayas. (2 marks)

b. Why does speaking in whistles give the Hmong people secrecy? (2 marks)

c. Why are messages conveyed in the language of Silbo Gomero accurate? (2 marks)

d. What is the main idea of paragraph 4? (1 mark)

e. State two measures which prevent Silbo Gomero from disappearing from the Earth. (2 marks)

f. What does "This" in line 40 refer to? (1 mark)

g. What are the three features of whistles which help hunters in their hunting activities? (3 marks)

h. Apart from the use of whistled language in romantic relationships and hunting, state another two purposes of using the language. (2 marks)

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SECTION B: GRAMMAR [30 MARKS]

Question 1: Word Classes (10 marks)

Instructions: *Read the text and identify the correct word classes of the words in bold. Write your answers as shown in the example.*

Example: (0) sales – noun

Blame Millennials: Diamond Jewellery Business in a Rough Spot

Diamonds may be losing their shine soon. Retail **(0) sales** of diamonds are slowing globally as a younger generation of consumers appears to be less attached to traditional diamond jewellery than their parents and grandparents, according to industry analysts.

Millennial consumers have distinctive preferences, which in many ways diverge from previous generations. They tend to be more concerned with **(1) sustainability** and ethical production, and often value unique and individual products versus items that are standardised and mass-produced.

Millennials also marry late. The median age to marry is 27 for millennial women and 29 for men, according to Pew Research. This is a challenge for the diamond business. The bridal category, including engagement or wedding ring purchases, represents as much as half of the total **(2) merchandise** sold by some of the major jewellers in the United States. When millennials do marry, some opt for gemstone engagement rings, such as sapphires, or fashion jewellery with lab-grown diamonds. This is because **(3) synthetic** diamonds can cost 30 per cent less than mined diamonds.

"Millennials don't want what all **(4) their** friends have and don't want what they have been told to have," said Amanda Gizzi, a spokeswoman for Jewellers of America, a trade association with more than 8,000 member jewellers.

In an attempt to counteract the trend, the Diamond Producers Association, a **(5) global** trade group of seven of the world's leading diamond producers, launched an advertising campaign to win over the hearts, minds and wallets of millennials. Its slogan is "real is rare, and real is a diamond."

"The role of the Diamond Producers Association is to focus on ensuring a strong, vibrant demand for our diamonds," association CEO, Jean-Marc Lieberherr, said. "That's really what **(6) underpins** the 'real is rare' strategy, which is to connect at a deep emotional level with millennials, who are an **(7) exceptionally** important group now. Millennials are the biggest generation in the United States, and within a few years, they will be the biggest consuming generation. They are also the generation getting married, and the bridal or romantic engagement cachet is still the cornerstone of this industry."

Lieberherr added that millennials **(8) relate** a lot to what a diamond is and the idea of a diamond, but a little less to all the rituals and conventions that are associated with it. He said the new marketing campaign includes social media as well as radio and television. **(9) While** the Diamond Producers Association has put the stimulation of demand growth high on its agenda, the challenge is that diamond jewellery appears to be low on the buying lists **(10) among** so-called millennials.

Adapted from Daniels, J. (June 2016). *Blame millennials: Diamond jewellery business in a rough spot.* Retrieved from http://www.cnbc.com/2016/06/16/blame-millennials-diamond-jewelry-business-in-a-rough-spot.html

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Question 2: Subject-Verb Agreement (10 marks)

Instructions: *The following extract contains 10 errors in subject-verb agreement. Identify the errors and correct them as shown in the example.*

Example:

No.	Line	Error	Correction
0	1	is	are

Get Face to Face with the Tribes of Tanzania

There is more than 3,000 tribes on the African continent, but the Hadza people of Tanzania are in a category of their own. They are genetically isolated from most other groups, and their language is not closely related to any other tongue. Today, about a quarter of their thousand members still survives in the old hunter-gatherer way. Archaeologists believe that people very much like the Hadza have been living on the same land since the Stone Age.

Another tribe, the cow-herding Masai, live in established villages near major tourist spots. Like the Masai, the Barabaig people are newcomers to the area. Both groups originated in the Nile region and gave up their hunting-gathering ways long ago. Today, each of these tribes raise livestock and grows crops. The wealthiest families own several thousand cattle, which is divided among the sons in the families over vast areas. As far as family size is concerned, Hadza men marry only one wife, while the Masai and Barabaig men marry as many as ten wives.

A sad fact is that all three tribes face survival threats. Ninety per cent of the Hadza's roaming grounds has been lost over the past century, mostly to other tribes. Game reserves have also caused occupation of plots of land, where the Masai and Barabaig grazes animals. Additionally, the government has recently passed laws forbidding tribes from planting crops near the Ngorongoro Crater, a popular safari destination. Tribal warriors also run into trouble when they kill lions because killing of lions are forbidden by Tanzanian law, but in their tribal customs, men earn status within their tribes, especially when they kill the beasts which threaten their livestock.

Despite the survival threats, Tanzania's tribes still have more living space than most indigenous people in other countries. According to a past study which looked at land rights of indigenous groups in 131 countries, Tanzania were one of just five to earn the highest possible score across ten different aspects, including legal recognition, authority over boundaries and access to wood and water.

This is largely because Tanzania does not allow private land ownership outside urban areas. Rural property belong to all citizens in common, and tribes are largely free to negotiate boundaries among themselves. These groups are still able to live very much as their ancestors did, grazing cattle, hunting for game or moving from camp to camp among the ancient baobab trees. In a world in which trains travel under oceans, satellites hurtle through space and computers dominates the globe, these tribes are still able to cling to a life once lived by their forefathers more than 10,000 years ago.

Adapted from Rothenberg Gritz, J. (October 2016). *Get face to face with the tribes of Tanzania.* Retrieved from http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/tribes-tanzania-180960444/#qZfyJjwxCtXiAmzg.99

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Question 3: Tenses (10 marks)

Instructions: *For questions 1-10, read the text and choose the correct answer.*

Example (0) ____B____

Indonesia's Trying to Figure out How Many Islands it Contains

How many islands are there in Indonesia? It **(0)** _____ out that the Republic of Indonesia itself does not really know the answer. The nation of many islands consists of so many small land masses that they have never been officially counted. The question of how many islands there are has long been a difficult issue in a nation of hundreds of ethnicities, tribes and languages, and in a country where boundaries (1) _____ set during the Dutch colonial expansion.

Now, Indonesia (2) _____ to mark its territory by registering the islands with the United Nations. Since a few decades ago, Indonesia (3) _____ hard for the concept of an archipelagic state, a country that controls not just the waters inside it, but also around it. The concept has led to a long definition in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, an international treaty that (4) _____ how the United Nations' member nations deal with oceans in the present day.

According to the treaty, an island is a natural land mass that is surrounded by water and that is not obscured by water during a high tide. Indonesia certainly does not lack for those features, but it cannot seem to keep its numbers straight. It (5) _____ varying estimates of its number of islands over the years. With satellite technology, Indonesia upped its estimate from 17,508 in 1996 to over 18,000 in 2003. As of the last United Nations Conference on the Standardisation of Geographical Names in 2012, the government formally registered only 13,466 islands. In the next submission to the United Nations, Indonesia (6) _____ the official count up to at least 14,572 named islands.

Still, not all islands are willing to stay in Indonesia or belong to the country. In 2002, the International Court of Justice forced Indonesia to cede Ligitan and Sipadan, two tiny islands, to Malaysia, and after a 24-year occupation, East Timor (7) _____ an independent nation from Indonesia in 2002. Knowing the total number of islands in Indonesia is vital because the number (8) _____ the country's geopolitical aspect. The area is one of the world's most important waterways as well as home to a third of the world's maritime traffic and up to $5 trillion in trade.

While registering the names with the United Nations does not equate to a claim of sovereignty, it (9) _____ Indonesia's territory and upholds Indonesian sovereignty by supporting fishermen on outlying islands in places such as the Natuna Sea, where China argues that it has overlapping claims for maritime rights and interests.

However, one question that remains unresolved is how the country plans to keep up with the changes brought about by climate change. As sea levels rise in the next few years, smaller islands (10) _____, and as volcanos erupt, more islands will form.

Adapted from Blakemore, E. (June 2017). *Indonesia's trying to figure out how many islands it contains.* Retrieved from http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/indonesias-trying-figure-out-how-many-islands-it-contains-180963606/#D2ZRDrV7B7oEcti7.99

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0.	**A. turned**	**B. turns**	**C. had turned**	**D. will turn**
1.	A. will be	B. are	C. have been	D. were
2.	A. tried	B. will have tried	C. is trying	D. will be trying
3.	A. had fought	B. has fought	C. will fight	D. fought
4.	A. established	B. establishes	C. had established	D. will be establishing
5.	A. has submitted	B. will submit	C. is submitting	D. submitted
6.	A. brings	B. will bring	C. has brought	D. will have brought
7.	A. has become	B. is becoming	C. became	D. will become
8.	A. affected	B. had affected	C. will affect	D. affects
9.	A. marked	B. marks	C. had marked	D. will have marked
10.	A. disappeared	B. will disappear	C. have disappeared	D. had disappeared

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